

**The Connecticut Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery Society
The Connecticut ENT Society
The Connecticut Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons
The Connecticut Society of Eye Physicians**

OPPOSE

SB 1254, An Act Allowing Electrologists To Use Laser Technology For Hair Removal.

On the surface, it may seem that the removal of hair by laser surgery is an easy procedure that poses little or no health risks. In fact, the outcomes can result in horrible scarring when it is done incorrectly, or without a basic understanding of the skin and skin structures. The truth is:

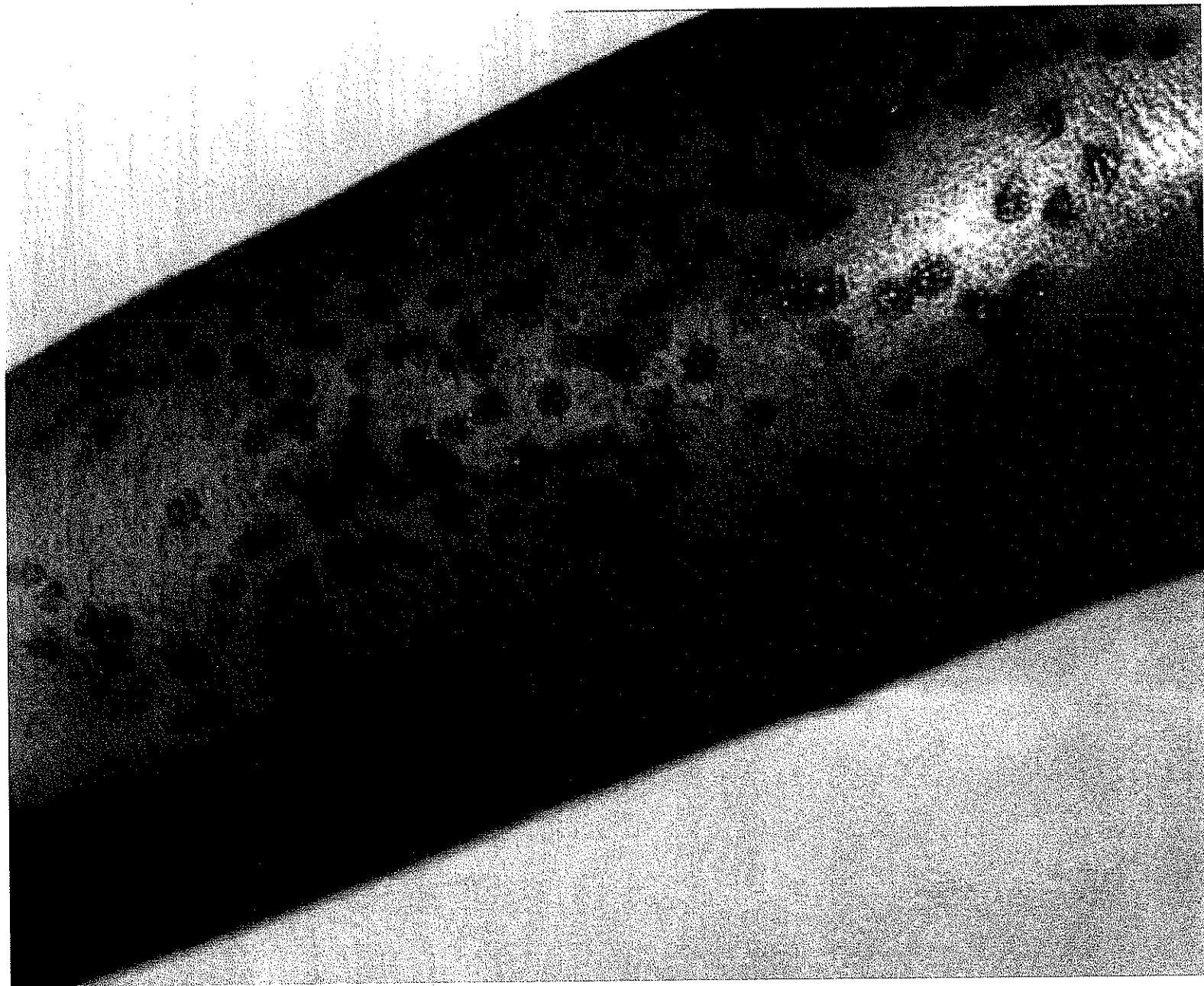
- Lasers are advanced medical devices that are capable of serious, and potentially disfiguring, complications if operated improperly...including **blindness, permanent scarring, infections, and permanent discoloration of the skin.**
- A ruling by the CT Medical Examining Board found that the use of a laser to remove hair is a medical, not a cosmetic procedure which actually alters the surface of the skin and must be performed by a physician.
- The skin is the largest organ of the body and is comprised of numerous structures. Damage to these structures compromise the skin and the body's ability to regulate and protect itself. These structures include the epidermis, melanocytes (which protect the skin from the damaging effects of the sun), dermis, sweat ducts, oil glands, nerves, blood vessels, connective tissue and hair. To successfully treat hair, light from a laser must pass through each of these structures placing them at risk of permanent damage if the laser is improperly operated.
- Physicians receive extensive training in the physics of lasers and how they operate. Because of their medical background, they also have a necessary understanding of a laser's effect on the skin and skin structures (not just the hair).
- There are many different lasers, each operating with a different wavelength, intensity of light, and duration of exposure. Successful operation of lasers requires a thorough knowledge of which **wavelengths** to use to target certain skin structures (i.e.hair vs. blood vessels vs. pigment), what intensity of light to use, and how long the light should be applied (measured in NANOSECONDS or MILLISECONDS!!).
- Improper use of a laser can harm the patient resulting in potentially disfiguring and painful complications. In fact, Dermatologists receive extensive laser training through an ACGME (American College of Graduate Medical Education)-approved residency program that takes place over three years.
- A thorough understanding of the medical complications of laser use is required in order to avoid complications and treat them appropriately when they occur. Medical complications include an exacerbation of lupus a serious medical disease and burns due to photosensitizing medications. Electrologists do not have the medical knowledge or training to deal with these complications which is certainly not in the interest of patient safety.

Using a laser is a dangerous medical treatment which can have disastrous effects if performed improperly. Physicians are professionally trained in the medical treatment of their patients and laser surgery, electrologists are not. In the interest of patient safety, we urge your opposition to SB 1254.

Jordan 2.jpg



Arm Scarring-hi-res.jpg



Scar on neck due to non-physician laser use-Goldman.jpg

